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SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [EUN](#) [IS](#) [SW](#)

SUBJECT: SWEDEN CLAIMS NOTHING NEW IN DRAFT FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COUNCIL TEXT ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: A. ROME 1328

[1](#)B. TEL AVIV 2577

[1](#)C. BRUSSELS 1621

Classified By: PolCouns Marc Koehler for reasons 1.4 (b,d).

(C) Deputy Director of the Swedish MFA Middle East Department Fredrik Floren presented poloff with the Swedish-authored draft conclusions on the Middle East Peace Process to be discussed by EU foreign ministers at the December 7-8 EU Foreign Affairs Council (emailed to EUR/NB and EUR/ERA). He said the text should "not be dramatized" and the media has exaggerated the content. He claimed the draft reflects numerous discussions among EU Member States and the has wide support within the EU, including from "Germany, France and Britain." For this reason, Floren does not anticipate significant changes will be made. Floren made the following additional points:

-- The conclusions are not a Swedish initiative; a "major" EU member state in July 2008 made the original suggestion to have such MEPP conclusions.

-- The widely discussed sentence in paragraph three, which reads "If there is to be a genuine peace, a way must be found to resolve the status of Jerusalem as the future capital of two states," is taken directly from the 2008 EU Action Strategy, negotiated at the PSC level under the French presidency. The document reflected (and continues to reflect) the EU position on MEPP, but as an internal document it was not publicly distributed.

-- The above sentence has been used verbatim in at least four other instances, said Floren. This would be the first time EU foreign ministers have used the text, however. The public instances were: 1) July 2009 EU Presidency statement at the UNSC on MEPP; 2) October 2009 UNSC statement; 3) October 2009 EU statement at the UN Council for Human Rights; 4) November 2009 EU Declaration on the Association Agreement with Jordan.

-- The second paragraph reflects the Oslo Accords, Floren said, when it states the EU "will not recognize any changes to the pre-1967 borders." The pre-1967 borders divide Jerusalem.

-- The third and fourth paragraphs reflect the need to keep the Palestinian Authority as a negotiating partner and the December 2008 Council Conclusions to further develop EU relations with both the Palestinian Authority and Israel.
BARZUN